

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF
COLEOPTERA (FAMILY *HISPIDÆ*) FROM NEW
BRITAIN.

BY DAVID SHARP, M.B., F.R.S.

(Communicated by W. W. Froggatt.)

BRONTISPA, n.gen. *Chrysomelidarum* (*Hispides*, Group *Cryptonychites*.)

Corpus perelongatum, depressum. Caput inter antennis productum, acuminatum, medio canaliculatum. Elytra regulariter seriatim punctata, interstitiis æqualibus, nullo modo costatis.

This genus may be placed between *Cryptonychus* and *Oxycephala*. The simply acuminate spinose projection on the front of the head, and the remarkably even surface (very regularly punctured) of the extremely elongate elytra, are sufficient to distinguish it. It has another remarkable character: on the under surface of the head, the parts of the mouth are not closely applied to the front of the prosternum, but are separated from it by a curved ridge running all across the head in correspondence with the curve of the front of the prosternum.

BRONTISPA FROGGATTI, n.sp.

Elongata, depressa, subparallela, rufotestacea, elytris nigro-suffusis, interdum fere totaliter rufo-testaceis, interdum omnino nigris, corpore subtus plus minusve nigro-suffuso; antennis elongatis nigricantibus. Long. 9 mm., cap. $\frac{3}{4}$, thor. $1\frac{1}{2}$, elytris $6\frac{3}{4}$ -7 mm.; lat. 2 mm.

Colour reddish-yellow, suffused with black to a variable extent, but with the prothorax always in larger part red. Antennæ $2\frac{3}{4}$ mm. long; the terminal four joints closely articulated, elongate, dull, the other joints shining, with the sutures between them

distinct. Thorax about as long as broad, at the sides the outline is a little incurved, the margins excessively fine; there are numerous coarse punctures on it, but there is also a large angular smooth space extending all across it. Elytra with very regular series of deep punctures; just about the middle the 5th and 6th series diverge so as to allow two additional series to be intercalated behind this spot. Under surface polished and shining.

Oxycephala longissima, Gestro, from Aru, is nearly as elongate as *B. froggatti*.

A number of specimens of this beetle were received from Mr. J. G. O'Malley, manager of Kukada Plantation, New Britain, with the information that they were a very serious pest. He says:—"If something cannot be done to abolish or check this plague, I fear many thousands of acres of young palms will be destroyed. The insect deposits its eggs upon the young shoots of the plant upon which the larvæ feed. There are fully 50,000 plants ravaged by this pest."

